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(c) whether the Government have finally decided the question, whether final orders have been issued to the municipalities and, if so, which municipalities are going to have the Revenue Officers?

A.—(a) & (b) The Bill was published and thereafter 37 municipal councils expressed their views on the amendment. Two of them were for the amendment and the rest against it.

(c) The final decision of the question will rest with the Legislative Council, when the Bill is introduced in the Council.

Nomination of an Indian Christian to Trichinopoly District Board.

*2369 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: With reference to his answers to several points in connexion with question No. 1735 given on 23rd March 1926, will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether an Indian Christian has been nominated to any vacancy on the District Board of Trichinopoly; and

(b) if not, for what reasons?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Since March last no suitable opportunity has occurred for the nomination of an Indian Christian.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha:—"Here is another instance of a district board, and I want to know why Government have made no nominations of Indian Christians to the Trichinopoly District Board. It is well known that Trichinopoly has got two first-grade colleges belonging to Indian Christians. Why was not a single Indian Christian appointed to the district board?"

The hon. the Raja of Panagal:—"The answer has already been given. No suitable vacancy has occurred."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"May I know if it is a fact that no vacancy has occurred in the district board?"

The hon. the Raja of Panagal:—"It does not mean that there was no vacancy. There was no *suitable* vacancy."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha:—"May I know whether there was no Indian Christian vacancy during the last three years on the district board? If there was a vacancy, why no Indian Christian was appointed?"

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"I ask for more light as regards the suitability. I do not really follow what the hon. Minister means by saying 'suitable vacancy'."

The hon. the Raja of Panagal:—"The fact of the matter is that there was a vacancy, and it was filled up by a retired president. By convention we have been appointing retired chairmen or presidents as members of the board when vacancies arise."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha:—"May I inquire who is a retired president? Is it a fact that he generally refuses or is reluctant to be on the board?"

The hon. the Raja of Panagal:—"Government have no information, Sir."

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Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai :—" May I know if the communities concerned made any representation to the Government that they were not represented on the board and that no nominations were made out of their communities ? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" I do not remember anything except the representation made by my hon. Friend."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" There was a representation made in this Council by some hon. Member or other, and in this case it is to the credit of a Muhammadan gentleman that he made this complaint. I myself complained of it."

Mr. R. Veerian :—" May I know whether there is any rule that the president of the district board should take the initiative in recommending persons belonging to the Indian Christian community as well as the Muhammadan community and the Adi-Dravida community, because they come under the category of backward and depressed classes for purposes of nomination ? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" I do not quite follow the hon. Member."

Mr. R. Veerian :—" Of course, it is the district board president that recommends the nominations. I want to know whether the president of the district board is vested with any power in making recommendations regarding members belonging to the minority communities, viz., Indian Christians, Muhammadans and depressed classes."

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" They generally make recommendations according to the claims of the respective communities."

Mr. R. Veerian :—" Then, has the president made any recommendations in this particular affair ? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" No."

Mr. R. Veerian :—" In that case, why did not the Government ask the president of the district board to recommend the name of an Indian Christian gentleman ? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" Because the president has recommended the next occasion for it."

Constitution of Udipi as a municipality.

* 2370 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what action has been taken on the proposal to convert the town of Udipi into a municipality or union board ;

(*b*) whether there are proposals before Government to convert any other towns in South Kanara and Malabar with a population over 10,000 into municipalities or union boards and, if so, what action has been taken on them ; and

(*c*) whether Government have laid it down as a principle that towns with a population of over 10,000 should have a municipality or union board to manage the town affairs?